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(19) (CA) **CANADIAN PATENT** (12)

(54) Foam Shaving Cream Applicator

(72) McLennan, Ray , Canada

(73) Same as inventor

(57) 3 Claims

Canada

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An applicator for applying foamed shaving cream or lather which comprises a base on which is mounted a flexible elongated body of foamed solid material, the body being of wide, wedge shape. The base may be hollowed to form a chamber within which is seated an internal bladder for receiving under pressure foamed shaving cream from a dispenser. An appropriate valve permits release of the foam from the bladder through passages in the body to the surface of the body. The applicator provides more even distribution of shaving cream on a user's face, resulting in a more even and comfortable shave.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a device for applying foamed shaving cream, and more particularly to an improved applicator for spreading such shaving cream on a person's face.

5 Conventional methods of spreading lathered soap or shaving cream on a person's face include using a shaving brush (e.g. a traditional handle with animal hair bristles) with soap, and placing foamed shaving cream from a dispensing canister on one's fingers and spreading the foam on these
10 fingers over areas to be shaved on one's face. Such conventional methods do not spread soap or foam terribly evenly on the face of a shaver, with the result that many whiskers are not coated and indeed, some areas, for example below the person's nose, may be missed entirely. This may result in cuts
15 to the face of the person shaving, and increased wear on the blade of the razor.

 As a reference of general background interest, U.S. Patent No. 4,089,609 of Gring et al issued May 16, 1978 describes and illustrates a rounded applicator sponge
20 releasably mounted on a cap at the top of a rigid shaving cream dispenser canister. In one embodiment, a passageway for shaving cream extends directly from a dispenser orifice to the surface of the applicator sponge.

 It is an object of the present invention to provide an
25 applicator which is capable of more evenly spreading shaving



cream and spreading shaving cream evenly even on areas of a person's face which are more difficult to reach.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to the present invention there is provided an applicator for applying foamed shaving cream or lather. The applicator comprises a base to be gripped by a user and a foam spreader consisting of a flexible, integral elongated body of foamed solid material mounted on the base. The body has wide side surfaces which come together in a wedge-shape at their upper ends.

In a preferred embodiment, the base is provided with an internal chamber which has within an expandable bladder, an orifice in the base to communicate with the interior of the bladder. A one-way valve in the orifice permits passage of foam expelled under pressure from a foam dispenser canister into the bladder. A channel extends between an outlet in the bladder in the chamber and the body. An externally manipulatable valve is provided for the bladder outlet, and passages in the body extend from the outlet to the exterior surfaces of the body, whereby foamed shaving cream may be inserted into and held within the bladder when the valve is closed, but the cream held within it is forced by the bladder through the outlet and passages to the exterior surfaces when the valve is opened.

The wedge-shape of the applicator according to the present invention distributes lather or shaving cream more evenly and precisely where it is required and in places, such as where the sideburns end, in a straight edge. It also facilitates the spreading of cream for example under a person's nose. As the wedge-shaped edge of the applicator passes over the face of the shaver, it presses the cream flat without dragging it along, leaving a smooth, even, complete coverage.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent upon reading the following detailed description and upon referring to the drawings in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of an applicator device according to the present invention; and

FIGURE 2 is a central section view of an alternative embodiment of applicator device in accordance with the present invention.

While the invention will be described in conjunction with example embodiments, it will be understood that it is not intended to limit the invention to such embodiments. On the contrary, it is intended to cover all alternatives, modifications and equivalents as may be included within the

spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

5 In the following description, similar features in the drawings have been given similar reference numerals.

Turning to the drawings, there is illustrated an applicator device 2 in accordance with the present invention for applying lather or foamed shaving cream, applicator 2 comprising a base or handle 4 and a foam spreader 6 consisting
10 of a flexible, elongated body of foamed solid material such as foamed plastic. Spreader body 6 is centrally mounted on base 4, and has wide side surfaces 8 which come together at their upper ends 10 in a wide wedge-shape as illustrated. An appropriate stiffening member 12 may be provided between the
15 surfaces, upwardly extending from the base within the body as illustrated.

In the alternative embodiment illustrated in Figure 2, an applicator 14 having a generally similar shape to that of Figure 1, with the foam spreader body being similarly of a wide
20 wedge-shape, is illustrated. In this alternative embodiment, base 4 is provided with an interior chamber 16 within which is positioned a resilient bladder 18. A channel 20 extends between the bottom end 22 of base 4 and chamber 16, and is provided with a receptacle 24, at its open end, to receive the

nozzle of a shaving cream dispensing canister 26. Bladder inlet 28 is held within this channel 20, bladder inlet 28 having a one-way valve 30 fitted within so that shaving cream fed under pressure from dispenser canister 26 passes by valve 30 into the interior of bladder 18, but will not normally pass outwardly from within bladder 18 through inlet 28. Chamber 16 and bladder 18 are intended to be of sufficient volume and size to enable sufficient cream to be held within the bladder for at least one shave.

At the other end of bladder 18 is an outlet 32 passing through the upper end 34 of base 4 into passageways 36 extending from within the center of spreader body 8, so that shaving cream held within bladder 18 may be dispensed directly through outlet 32 and passages 36 to the outer surfaces of body 8. An appropriate valve means 38, manipulatable by the user, is provided at outlet 32 for directing the flow of shaving cream, as required, from bladder 18. Of course, as will be understood from the foregoing description and figure 2, bladder 18 is made of appropriately resilient material so that it will expand within the confines of chamber 16 when filled with shaving cream from canister 26, and will force shaving cream held within, through outlet 32 when valve 38 is appropriately positioned, under urging of its resilient walls. Cream that is thus forced from bladder 18 travels through passages 36 to the surface of body 8 where it is then spread onto a shaver's face by the end 10 of spreader body 6.

An appropriate soft, flexible gasket (not illustrated) may be positioned about the walls of receptacle 24 to permit a water faucet to be sealingly inserted in receptacle 24, so that water from the faucet may be passed into bladder 18 and through passages 36 to flush old cream from within the applicator.

5 Spreader body 6, in the devices of Figures 1 and 2, being made of flexible foamed plastic or the like, and because of its composition and wedge-shaped end, provides an unexpectedly smooth, uniform and even spread of lather or cream
10 onto the shaver's face. Lather or cream may be easily applied to each whisker in the area of coverage, and coverage is achieved with a precision, because of the shape of spreader body 6, which has heretofore not been possible using conventional spreader means.

15 Thus it is apparent that there has been provided in accordance with the invention an improved foam shaving cream applicator that fully satisfies the objects, aims and advantages set forth above. While the invention has been described in conjunction with specific embodiments thereof, it
20 is evident that many alternatives, modifications and variations will be apparent to those skilled in the art in light of the foregoing description. Accordingly, it is intended to embrace all such alternatives, modifications and variations as fall within the spirit and broad scope of the invention.

THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE
PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. An applicator for applying foamed shaving cream or lather which comprises a base to be gripped by a user and a foam spreader consisting of a flexible, integral elongated body mounted on the base, the body having wide side surfaces which come together in a wedge shape at their upper ends, the base being further provided with an internal chamber having within an expandable bladder, an orifice in the base communicating with the interior of the bladder, a one-way valve in the orifice to permit passage of foam expelled under pressure from a foam dispenser canister into the bladder, and a channel extending between an outlet in the bladder in the chamber and the body, externally manipulatable valve means provided for the bladder outlet, and passages in the body extending from the outlet to the exterior surfaces of the body whereby foamed shaving cream may be inserted into and held within the bladder, the bladder to force the cream held within it through the outlet and passages to the exterior surfaces when the valve means is opened.

2. An applicator according to claim 1 wherein the body is made of a foamed plastic.

3. An applicator according to claim 1 wherein a stiffening member is provided between the surfaces, upwardly extending within the body from the base.



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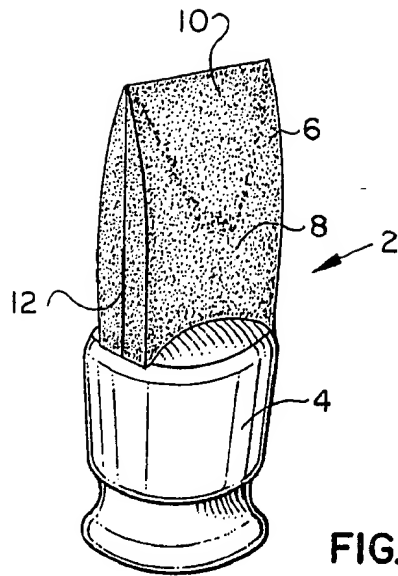


FIG. 1

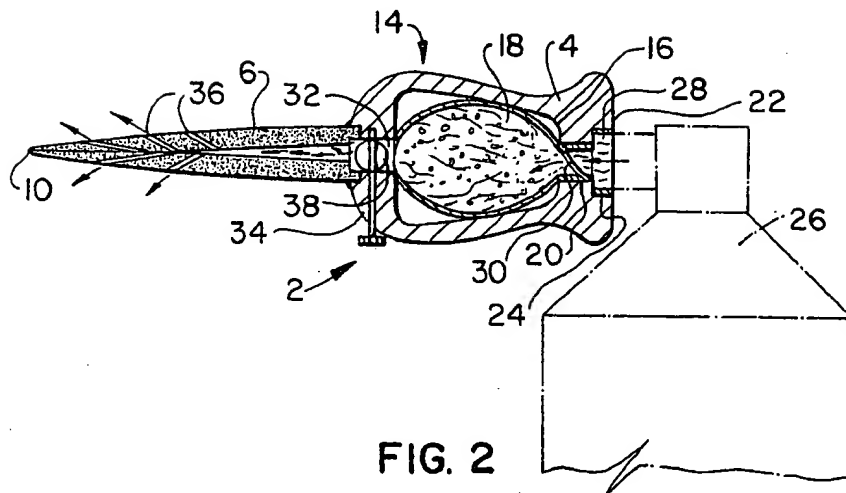


FIG. 2

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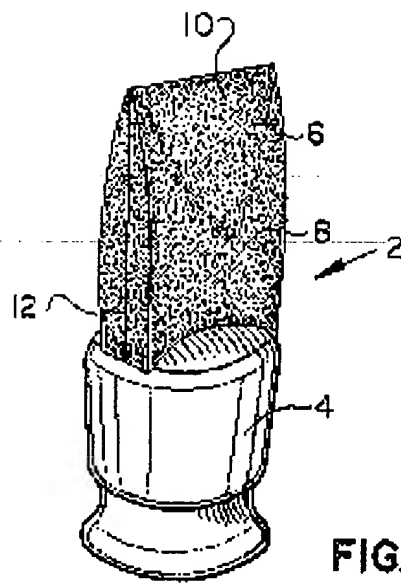


FIG. 1

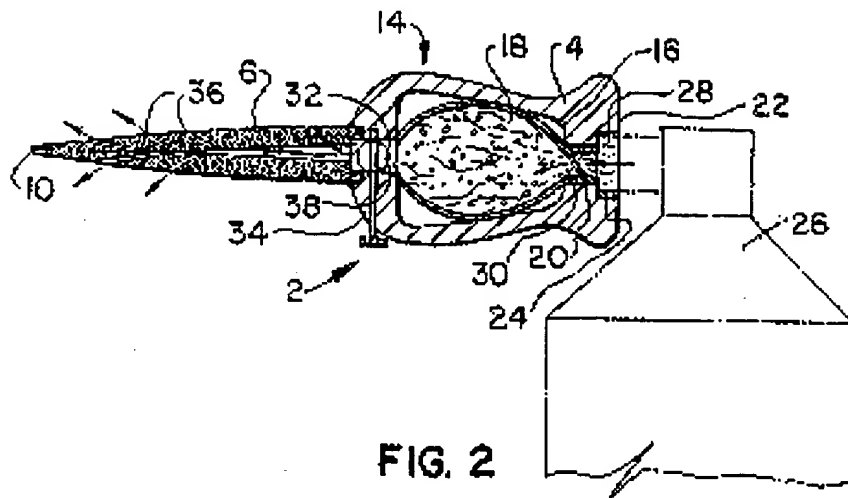


FIG. 2

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